

Appl. No. 10/774,259
Docket No. 8637C
Amdt. dated November 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed on May 4, 2006
Customer No. 27752

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Previously presented) An article having a surface fastening system, the surface fastening system including:

a) a first fastening element comprising:

a retaining element;

an attached portion joined to the article, said attached portion being fully or intermittently attached to the article;

a liftable portion extending from the attached portion, wherein at least about 5% of the retaining element is located on the liftable portion, said liftable portion being adapted to be lifted away from the article;

a hinge line positioned between the attached portion and the liftable portion;
and

b) a second fastening element comprising:

a retaining element, wherein at least a portion of the retaining element of said second fastening element is configured to be releasably engageable with at least a portion of the liftable portion of said first fastening element;

an attached portion joined to the article;

a liftable portion extending from the attached portion of said second fastening element wherein at least about 5% of the retaining element of the second fastening element is located upon the second fastening element liftable portion; a hinge line positioned between the attached portion and the liftable portion of said second fastening element.

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Claim 23. (New) The article of Claim 22, further comprising a primary direction of load bearing, the primary direction of load bearing intersecting the hinge line at an angle of less than 90 degrees.

Claim 24. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the liftable portion of the first fastening element is configured to be releasably engageable with the liftable portion of the second fastening element.

Claim 25. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the peel load capacity during use is greater than or equal to about 1000 grams.

Claim 26. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the surface fastening system may be disengaged in a peel mode through intentional surface fastening system disengagement with a peel load of less than about 1000 grams.

Claim 27. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the first fastening element is positioned on the front of the wearer.

Claim 28. (New) The article of Claim 22, further comprising a longitudinal centerline wherein the longitudinal centerline is intersected by the hinge line.

Claim 29. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 28, further comprising a lateral centerline wherein the hinge line intersects the longitudinal centerline and the lateral centerline.

Claim 30. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the article includes a disposable diaper, sanitary napkin, pant-like garment, body wrap, or medical bandage.

Claim 31. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the article includes a liquid pervious topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet and an absorbent core interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claim 32. (New) The article of Claim 22, further comprising opposite side panels and at least two second fastening elements, the second fastening elements being disposed

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on the opposite side panels so as to be generally attachable in a face to face relationship with at least a portion of the liftable portion of the first fastening element when the surface fastening system is in a fastened configuration.

Claim 33. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 22, wherein the first fastening element includes a flap with a retaining element.

Claim 34. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the first fastening element includes a masking element.

Claim 35. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the first fastening element includes a stiffening element.

Claim 36. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the liftable portion of the first and/or second fastening element includes an elastomeric portion.

Claim 37. (New) The article of Claim 22, wherein the first fastening element and the second fastening element are pre-fastened.